10: d'Orleans--279-280 T-3 (1891-92) 1894 Laos
116, 517, 584, 832 Ethnic subgroups

"Here we shall have a first glimpse of the customs of Laos; this strange country where love is held in such great respect, that it might be called the kingdom of the flirt. We walk up to the town, and find in the centre a square platform raised upon four posts; from [280] a fireplace formed of stones held in position by woven mats a few logs are throwing a feeble light over the scene. A young girl is seated, a scarf of orange silk knotted upon one shoulder, cleaning cotton by separating it from the seed by hand. Near her stands one of our boatmen, in a small white cloth jacket ornamented with European copper buttons, he is paying compliments to her. Holding one of her hands, he takes out the flowers she has placed in her hair, and passes them through the lobe of his ear. Further on, upon the terrace of a house, another young girl is talking to her lover; a small lamp gives them light, and they are playing at dinner or preparing betel for each other. They will, perhaps, chat together every night, in this way, for several months, simply exchanging ideas before coming to a definite understanding --a marriage generally follows."

10: d'Orleans--315 T-3 (1891-92) 1894 Laos
116, 181, 517, 609

"...They are a curious people; lazy without being fools; of equal fortune, as a rule, without great wealth or great distress; of a fairly pacific character; well disposed towards foreigners without exhibiting the intolerable curiosity of the Chinese; very religious, more, perhaps, from habit than from strong convictions; and, what is so rare in the East, treating women and girls with deference. For, while very free in their morals, they have their serenades and their 'Courts of Love,' reviving in the midst of Indo-China practices which belong rather to the Europe of the Middle Ages. There is something poetical, chivalrous and French, or, to go back to an earlier period, something Athenian in the inhabitants of the Laos; and if they have not the artistic feeling of the Greek, they have no desire for a knowledge of luxury. Having very little to earn, they do not work much and their existence is more unfettered."